of recycled disposable syringes that make their way back to the hospitals from surgical wastebins;

(b) whether any estimate has been made of the extent of use of recycled syringes; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to ensure that the disposable syringes are not re-used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) There has been media reports that disposable syringes are re-cycled in some places. While no estimation the extent of this practice has been made, in the guidelines on Hospital Acquired Infection Control circulated to the Hospitals and State Governments detailed instruction have been given for proper disposal of blood and blood contaminated material, including disposable syringes and needle by incineration/shredding. This aspect has also been covered in the training programmes organised for Medical and Para-Medical personnel and is a major part of the Information, Education and Communication campaign launched to educate the general public.

Transfer of Specialists under Central Health Service

196. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria laid down in Central Health Service regarding the transfer/posting of specialists;

(b) whether it is a fact that specialists are posted or transferred throughout the country under CHS rules;

(c) if so, how many specialists have not undergone a single transfer since the date of their initial posting;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some of them have not so far shifted to any other place even after their promotions as Senior Specialist; and

(e) if so, what is the number of such Specialists showing the places of their postings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per CHS Rules, 1996, the doctors are liable to serve anywhere in India or abroad. Looking to the vacancy position in the constituent units of CHS a policy decision has been taken to post specialists to fill the vacancies inter-alia from amongst new recruits and those who have completed long years at a particular station.

(c) The information is being collected from participating units of Central Health Service and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) The promotions in three Specialist Sub-cadre to the level of Specialist Grade I (Professor, Senior Specialist etc.) are made in-situ on time-bound basis. Therefore, such promotions do not involve change of place of postings.

(e) Does not arise.

Measures to check Population Growth

197. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the country's population is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, what new special and effective measures have been taken to check further increase of population and by when these measures will yield results;

(c) what is the percentage of increase in the country's population during the year 1996-97 together with the State-wise details thereof;

(d) whether Government have also taken any steps to provide medical facilities to all and taken health protection measures in view of the growing population of the country; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programmes of Department of